
American River Pump Station Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report Executive Summary

Introduction

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the American River Pump Station Project describes the potential adverse and beneficial environmental effects of the three project alternatives: No Action/No Project, Mid-Channel Diversion, and Upstream Diversion. The Mid-Channel Diversion Alternative is the Proposed Project and includes: (1) construction and operation of a year-round pumping facility for the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) which would divert water from the North Fork American River in the vicinity of the Auburn Dam construction site near Auburn, California; (2) closure of the Auburn Dam bypass tunnel; and (3) restoration of the three-quarter mile reach of the river that was dewatered and otherwise impacted by Auburn Dam construction activities.

Potential environmental effects resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the alternatives are described in the Final EIS/EIR, and summarized in this Executive Summary, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the lead agency under NEPA and PCWA is the lead agency under CEQA.

Revisions and Corrections to the Draft EIS/EIR

All comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR, and the responses thereto, are presented in Appendix C, Responses to Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR (Volumes 1 and 2) of the Final EIS/EIR. Volume 1, List of Commenters and Master Responses, provides Master Responses that have been prepared for comments on the Draft EIS/EIR which raised the same or similar issues related to certain topics. Volume 2, Individual Comment Letters and Responses, includes the written comments (verbatim) and transcripts of oral comments on the Draft EIS/EIR, paired alongside corresponding responses to significant environmental issues raised during the public comment period. Each comment letter is labeled to correspond with an index list entitled “List of Comments Received on the Draft EIS/EIR,” which is located in Section 2.0 of Volume 1. If a comment resulted in a correction or modification to the text that was originally presented in the Draft EIS/EIR, the text has been revised and the changes presented in the Final EIS/EIR. The changes incorporated into the Final EIS/EIR do not alter the conclusions presented in the Draft EIS/EIR.

The Draft EIS/EIR (September 2001) has been modified to reflect revisions and corrections made in response to public and agency comments received during the public review and comment period. These changes to the document do not alter the impact conclusions that were presented in the Draft EIS/EIR. **Table S-1** presents a summary of these revisions. These changes to the report are presented in the Final EIS/EIR to clarify project design, construction and operation features,

incorporate additional detail regarding proposed project features or mitigation measures and to correct typographical errors found during preparation of the final documents. The revisions and corrections included in the Final EIS/EIR have also been incorporated into the material presented in this Executive Summary, as appropriate to the level of detail in each section.

Table S-1 Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR	
List of Acronyms	
<input type="checkbox"/> Updated and corrected list of acronyms to include all acronyms used in Final EIS/EIR and supporting documentation	
Chapter 1.0 - Introduction	
<input type="checkbox"/> Updated discussion of Public Review of Draft EIS/EIR to reflect extended public review comment period <input type="checkbox"/> Added List of Revisions and Corrections to the Draft EIS/EIR <input type="checkbox"/> Added section regarding Final EIS/EIR Process	
Chapter 2.0 - Description of Alternatives	
<input type="checkbox"/> Expanded discussion regarding selection of alternatives explaining infeasibility of land conservation easements <input type="checkbox"/> Updated Table 2-2 to correct summary of major features of the alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Added new figure depicting major features of the No Action/No Project Alternative <input type="checkbox"/> Provided cost estimate breakdown for the Proposed Project pump station, bypass tunnel closure, and river channel excavation and public river access features <input type="checkbox"/> Revised reference to fish screen to reflect change to California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)-approved design, not Coanda-based design <input type="checkbox"/> Removed references to use of a standby diesel generator which is no longer proposed <input type="checkbox"/> Revised description of Public River Access Features to indicate modifications of riverside parking area to include only a turnaround and 3 handicap-accessible spaces, not 20 spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Revised references to total number of public river access parking area spaces from 70 to 53 <input type="checkbox"/> Provided revised Public River Access Features graphic to show parking area changes <input type="checkbox"/> Updated description of No Action/No Project Alternative, Proposed Project, and Upstream Diversion Alternative operation and maintenance to explain proposed double-pump operations using the Auburn Ravine Tunnel pump station to avoid potential impacts to Auburn Ravine fish and terrestrial resources <input type="checkbox"/> Revised discussion of Ralston Afterbay reoperation to clarify nature of activity <input type="checkbox"/> Made corrections to Table 2-8, Summary of Alternatives Considered and Eliminated from Further Analysis to explain infeasibility of land conservation easements and other suggested alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Updated Table 2-9, Anticipated Permits and Approvals for the Proposed Project to reflect project permitting needs based upon coordination with regulatory agencies since release of Draft EIS/EIR	
Chapter 3.0 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences	
General Revisions and Corrections	
<input type="checkbox"/> Updated references to Northridge Water District (NWD) to reflect recent name change to Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) <input type="checkbox"/> Updated references to Citizen's Utilities Water Company to reflect recent name change to California-American Water Company (CAWC) <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected discussion of SSWD (formerly NWD) water supply sources <input type="checkbox"/> Updated discussion of Auburn Recreation District proposed American River campground area <input type="checkbox"/> Provided additional explanation regarding placement of model output table and graphic results in Appendix H to the Draft EIS/EIR (also provided in resource sections containing diversion-related analyses)	

Table S-1 (Continued)
Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR

Water Supply and Hydrology

- ☐ Updated information pertaining to PCWA's Water Conservation Program

Fish Resources and Aquatic Habitat

- ☐ Revised description and evaluation of Auburn Ravine fish resources
- ☐ Deleted references to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) critical habitat designations for Central Valley steelhead and spring-run chinook salmon due to recent withdrawal of such designations by NMFS
- ☐ Updated discussion of backwater effects at Tamaroo Bar
- ☐ Updated and revised mitigation measures to reflect individual agency responsibilities and in response to changes related to (1) project construction no longer requires use of cofferdam, therefore related measures would not be needed; and (2) updated method to evaluate fish screen performance based on further consultation with CDFG fish screen experts

Terrestrial Resources

- ☐ Provided additional information regarding non-listed species at the project site, per request of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Draft Coordination Act Report recommendations
- ☐ Added account of potential areas of habitat affected by the Proposed Project, per request of USFWS Draft Coordination Act Report recommendations
- ☐ Incorporated findings of recent Red-Legged Frog Habitat Assessment and Site Survey performed at request of USFWS as part of federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation
- ☐ Updated and revised mitigation measures to reflect individual agency responsibilities

Recreation

- ☐ Included additional detail regarding existing project area recreation uses as supplied by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)
- ☐ Revised description and analyses related to modification of the Public River Access Features incorporated into the Proposed Project by the lead agencies and CDPR
- ☐ Developed revised recreation trail map for project area
- ☐ Updated discussion of recreation trail access impact during construction due to changed approach in mitigation
- ☐ Revised discussion of Auburn-to-Cool Trail impact and responsibilities for mitigation of impact under Proposed Project
- ☐ Incorporated additional information related to backwater effects at Tamaroo Bar rapid
- ☐ Provided further clarification of the Middle Fork American River whitewater boating impact under all alternatives
- ☐ Updated and revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and in response to changes in project features

Visual Resources

- ☐ Updated impact discussion in response to changes in Public River Access Features
- ☐ Revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and to reflect change in construction materials of pump station housing

Cultural Resources

- ☐ Updated discussion of cultural resources laws and regulations applicable to the project to reflect priority of federal laws
- ☐ Updated mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and in response to recent efforts related to Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Table S-1 (Continued)
Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR

Power Supply

- ☐ Corrected errors in text in response to comments

Land Use

- ☐ Incorporated discussion of growth issues and description of lead agencies responsibilities

Geology and Soils

- ☐ Updated discussion of mitigation measures to incorporate recommended measures under Public Health and Worker Safety program

Transportation and Circulation

- ☐ Incorporated information from supplemental Traffic Study and additional coordination with City of Auburn Public Works Department to evaluate potential impacts at Maidu Drive/Burlin Way intersection
- ☐ Updated discussion of mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities and incorporate recommendations for Construction Traffic Management Plan and payment of mitigation fees to City of Auburn

Air Quality

- ☐ Updated analysis of public river access-related traffic based on new emission evaluation information from Placer County and El Dorado County air pollution control districts
- ☐ Added information describing particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size (PM_{2.5}), as requested by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ☐ Provided discussion of project alternatives' compliance with federal general conformity requirements, as requested by U.S. EPA
- ☐ Incorporated additional information and explanation of analysis approach of sensitive receptors related to El Dorado County and the community of Cool, as requested by El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and others
- ☐ Removed references to diesel generator as one is no longer included in project alternative activities
- ☐ Updated and revised discussion of mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities

Noise

- ☐ Updated discussion of public river access traffic-related noise sources
- ☐ Revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities

Public Health and Worker Safety

- ☐ Added new information relative to Fire Management
- ☐ Incorporated geology and soils mitigation measures relative to slope stability, worker safety during construction and public safety during use of project area under Proposed Project
- ☐ Revised mitigation measures to identify individual agency responsibilities

Other Impact Considerations

- ☐ Corrected information presented under Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) to more specifically identify discussion relative to fall-run chinook salmon
- ☐ Expanded discussion of Short-term Uses of the Environment Versus Long-Term Productivity
- ☐ Added discussion of Climate Change, per request of U.S. EPA
- ☐ Revised ESA Compliance section to reflect (1) NMFS retraction of steelhead and spring-run chinook salmon critical habitat designations; (2) correction of inadvertent reference to incidental take; (3) update to summary of consultation to date; (4) addition of PCWA's proposed Auburn Ravine monitoring program as a conservation measure; and (5) incorporation of corrections to conclusion and determination

Table S-1 (Continued) Revisions and Corrections Made to the Draft EIS/EIR	
Chapter 4.0 - Consultation and Coordination	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Updated discussions of resource agency ESA consultations and other coordination
Chapter 5.0 - List of Preparers	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Added additional names and updated area of participation to reflect efforts undertaken to complete the Final EIS/EIR and related activities
Chapter 6.0 - References	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incorporated additional references cited and personal communications held during preparation of the Final EIS/EIR

Project Location

The location of the proposed pump station and related facilities is on the North Fork American River within the Auburn Dam Project construction area, east of the City of Auburn. The project area involves lands within Placer and El Dorado counties, which are bounded by the American River. Reclamation owns and manages these lands within the Auburn Dam Project area. CDPR, through an agreement with Reclamation, is responsible for the oversight and management of the lands as part of the Auburn State Recreation Area (Auburn SRA). Increased water supply diversions from the North Fork American River under the selected alternative would influence future operation of several Central Valley Project (CVP) components, including Folsom, Shasta, and Trinity reservoirs and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). Changes in CVP operations have the potential to influence State Water Project (SWP) operations at Oroville Reservoir. These water bodies are included in the regional study area for the project. PCWA would deliver the American River water within its Service Area Zones 1 and 5 and possibly to a portion of CAWC located within Placer County.

Figure S-1 illustrates the regional setting extending from the upper Sacramento River and upper American River, south to the Delta. **Figure S-2** depicts the project study area relative to cities, counties, transportation corridors, and waterways of the region. **Figure S-3** shows the local project area and site. **Figure S-4** depicts the PCWA service area that would receive American River water for municipal and industrial (M&I) and agricultural uses.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is threefold: (1) to provide facilities to allow PCWA to convey its Middle Fork Project (MFP) water entitlement to the Auburn Ravine Tunnel to meet demands within its service area; (2) to eliminate the safety issue associated with the Auburn Dam construction bypass tunnel; and (3) to allow for all pre-construction beneficial uses of water in